



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori Pelletier, Secretary-Treasurer

Connecticut AFL-CIO before the Labor and Public Employees Committee

January 31, 2013

Senator Osten and Representative Tercyak, and members of the committee, my name is Lori Pelletier and I am the Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO. On behalf of our affiliates and members we thank the committee for holding this public hearing.

I am here to testify in favor of the following bills:

S.B. No. 387 (RAISED) AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM FAIR WAGE. (LAB).

When similar legislation has come up in previous years the argument against this is always the same, and that is that it's bad for business, that it will cause the sky to fall. We have also heard this is not the year because the economy is good we don't want to slow it down, or the economy is bad we don't want to make it worse. The reality is none of the above. By raising the minimum wage you are adding money into the economy. Minimum wage workers spend all their earnings, they don't hide it in the Cayman's or in some Swiss bank account, they spend it and they spend it here.

If we are willing to invest money in business through tax credits and incentives the least we should do for workers is to rise up the floor of their wages. It's good for their families and it's good for the economy.

H.B. No. 5756 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING THE STANDARD WAGE BE PAID TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF EMPLOYERS WHO RECEIVED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENTITIES. (LAB)

This is an issue of personal responsibility. If a company is willingly accepting financial assistance from the state then they should be held to a higher standard, and paying workers a standard wage is just that. Is it too much to require that a company who is getting a leg up on their competitors extend that same advantage to the very workers producing or servicing the product? Again, these workers will reinvest these extra dollars right back into the local economy which brings economic growth. This bill is as simple as it comes and a very powerful statement to all families across our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today.

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